THE
# Dan Smoot Report

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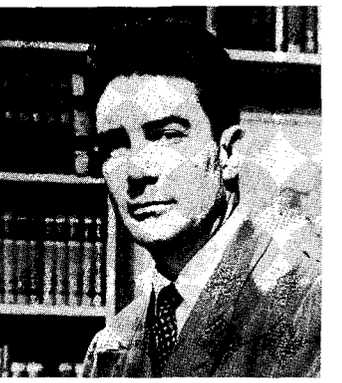

DAN SMOOT

## A BREATH OF HOPE

Early in 1966, the AFL-CIO Committee on Political Education (COPE) published an expensive, slick-finished, six-page mailing piece entitled *They're Playing For Keeps*. COPE was talking about the John Birch Society, me, and 5 other broadcasters whom COPE calls "the big guns on the rightist radio and TV firing line": Life Line, Howard Kershner, Clarence Manion, Billy James Hargis, Carl McIntire. COPE says our aim is "to take over Congress — or, at the very least, to destroy the present liberal majority."

Under the heading, "The Messages They Spout Over the Airwaves," the COPE publication gives samples of what it regards as the most deplorable statements made by us "big guns on the rightist radio and TV firing line." It quotes me as saying:

**"President Johnson's war on poverty . . . is misnamed. It is not a war against poverty. It is a war against the American constitutional system and against the freedom, independence, and prosperity of the American people. It will create in the United States a socialist dictatorship as complete and degrading, and as destructive of material prosperity, as any now existing in communist countries."**

**"Our Republic can be saved if the people will elect a Congress, and a President, who will respect the Constitution as a clear and binding contract of government, who will repeal all existing federal laws and abolish all existing federal programs not obviously authorized by some provision in the Constitution, who will reject all new proposals for federal programs not sanctioned by the Constitution. In short, we, the people, must put constitutionalists at the helm of government."**

It is not often that I can congratulate leftwing union bosses for honesty, but here I can: they admit that we whom they call "rightists" want a return to legal, American constitutional government; they obviously want a socialist dictatorship arranged and managed by elected minions whom they tightly control.

In the 89th Congress (1965-1966, the one which Johnson called "*my* Congress") union-supported liberals had a near monopoly. Of the 435 Representatives, 248 were "friends" of union

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bosses; and 60 of the 100 U. S. Senators were generally regarded as union flunkies.

Totalitarian liberals are effusive about what they call the *democratic process*, as long as they control it; but they are frenetic about any threat to their monopolistic control. Their frenzy shows in the COPE publication about constitutionalists' efforts to influence the elections in 1966:

**"The tidal wave of votes that swept President Johnson into office carried with him 51 new liberals into the U. S. House. . . . These 51 new liberals have spelled the difference between victory and defeat for Great Society programs."**

**"These are the seats the right-wingers are after."**

**"An extremist [*extremist* being a liberal synonym for *constitutionalist*] take-over of Congress — even a substantial cut in the liberal majority — would prevent progressive new Great Society legislation from being enacted.**

**"Further, it would carve up the good laws already passed in 1965 — medicare, housing, aid to education at all levels, voting rights, social security increases, war on poverty programs, job-creating programs and others.**

**"The party in control of the White House loses congressional seats in off-year elections. The average loss over the past 60 years has been 37 seats in the U. S. House, 5 seats in the U. S. Senate. Any loss approaching these figures in 1966 would spell doom for further social welfare legislation like medicare, social security increases, aid to education, war on poverty, civil rights and others."**

Democrat losses at the polls were even greater than anxious labor leaders had feared. Republicans made a net gain of 47 seats in the House of Representatives, 3 in the Senate. They elected enough new Governors to give the Republican Party control of 25 state capitals — possibly 26, depending on the outcome of the Georgia controversy, where a conservative Democrat and a conservative Republican are deadlocked for the governorship. And Republicans picked up some 700 new seats in state legislatures.

It should be carefully noted, however, that 199 of the 435 U. S. Representatives who will constitute the 90th Congress, and 58 of the 100 U. S. Senators, are avowed liberals — "friends" of labor leaders. If there were that many constitutionalists in Congress, they could influence moderates, and roll back the socialist revolution.

Nonetheless, the 1966 elections did give us a fine breath of hope. With the relatively minor gains we made, we have an exhilarating opportunity to hold the line while working for real victory in 1968.

Constitutional conservatives do not share the jubilation of Republican politicians over the 1966 elections. Republicans may rejoice about Rockefeller victories in New York and Arkansas; but constitutional conservatives know that the country would be better off if Paul Adams, Conservative Party candidate for governor, had won in New York, and if Jim Johnson, Democrat Party candidate, had won in Arkansas. Constitutional conservatives cannot rejoice about the victories of such Republicans as George Bush, who won a seat in the House from Houston, Texas, by advertising himself as a progressive; and David F. Cargo, who won the governorship of New Mexico by campaigning as a liberal. We have no enthusiasm for Republican Mark Hatfield who won a Senate race in Oregon; but we suppose he will not be worse than Senator Neuberger who preceded him; and he could be better than Robert Duncan, his Democrat opponent who, as a member of Congress in 1965-66, had a zero rating as a conservative. We are not gleeful about Romney's victory in Michigan, but we are delighted that his opponent and Soapy Williams were soundly defeated.

*Congressional Quarterly's* analysis of the 1966 elections is typical of about 99% of the public analyses that have been made:

**"The vast majority of successful Republican candidates, both for Congressional and state offices, appeared to have rejected the ultraconservative ideology which former Sen. Barry Goldwater (R Ariz.) symbolized and which carried the GOP down to its lowest level since the Depression . . . . The 1966 elections appeared to lay the groundwork for a strong moderate Republican challenge to President Johnson in 1968."**



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The lessons which this analysis apparently intends to teach are that the Republican Party must be surrendered totally and abjectly to the Rockefeller-Romney-Javits liberals who call themselves moderates, and that the Party must never again dare nominate for President a candidate as conservative as Goldwater. I disagree. I think that if the revitalized Republican Party is surrendered to the liberals — leaving no hope that the Party will ever be anything but a smudged copy of the Democrat Party — the Republican Party will die; and its death will be good riddance for the nation.

*Congressionl Quarterly* says Ronald Reagan won the governorship of California by a plurality of almost a million votes because Reagan "was able to shed his one-time ultra-conservative image." Again, I disagree. Reagan's televised speech for Goldwater in 1964 — the best speech made for any candidate of either party that year — gave him a reputation as an effective, uncompromising spokesman for conservatism. It was this reputation — and not any moderating or compromising of the political principles which gave him the reputation — that catapulted Reagan into the upper echelons of political importance in 1966.

*If Ronald Reagan remains absolutely true to the principles that gave him political prominence, he can be the next President of the United States. If he listens to the siren song of "moderation" — as Goldwater did — he will follow Goldwater's political path.*

All in all, it is quite impossible to say with certainty *why* the people voted as they did on November 8, 1966; but I *believe* most of them were registering strong disapproval of the corrupt, wasteful, ineffective, unconstitutional federal activities lumped under the general heading of Johnson's "Great Society programs."

Early in 1966, union bosses predicted that a loss of anywhere near 37 seats in the U. S. House of Representatives "would spell the doom" of Great Society programs. I think they were right. They actually lost 47 seats in the House. Let us see what those 47 votes did for Johnson's Great Society legislation in 1965-66.

DEMONSTRATION CITIES AND METROPOLITAN DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1966. If funded and implemented as planned, this law will make city governments in the United States subservient tools of the federal bureaucracy, and will finance, with tax money, more graft and political corruption than the nation has ever before endured. The House passed this act by a vote of 178 to 141 on October 14, 1966. Subtract from the liberal majority the votes of the 47 liberal Democrats who were defeated in 1966, and add their 47 votes to the conservative opposition. Result: 131 *for* the Demonstration Cities Act, 188 *against*. If every member of the House — especially the new ones elected in 1966 — hears from every constitutional conservative in his district, the least that the House will do in 1967 is to deny appropriations of tax money for the Demonstration Cities program. At best, the House could repeal the act, and, possibly, influence the Senate to comply.

HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT ACT. On June 30, 1965, the House, by a stand of 249 to 173, passed HR 7984 which included, among other things, Johnson's rent-subsidy scheme. A 47-vote switch would have defeated this bill.

On May 10, 1966, the House, by a vote of 192 to 188 approved $22 million for rent subsidies in fiscal 1967. Switch the votes of 47 liberal Democrats who were defeated in 1966, and the conservative coalition would have enough votes to abolish the rent subsidies program.

HUD. For three years, President Kennedy tried unsuccessfully to get congressional authorization of a new Housing and Urban Affairs Department. Conservative arguments against were rather well summarized in the Minority Views expressed by Senators in 1961 when President Kennedy first proposed the new Department:

**"This new Department can eventually nullify local city government. . . . We will, in one sweeping gesture, create a goliath which will drain our Treasury and which will keep a watchful, police**



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**eye on every urban community and its citizens, planning, spending, directing, until citizens will not call city hall when streets need repair, or a water main needs replacing, but will notify their Congressman to contact the cabinet member handling such problems."**

Johnson's House of Representatives passed a bill to create HUD, on June 16, 1965, by a stand of 228 to 195. A 47-vote switch would have defeated the measure.

APPALACHIA. On March 3, 1965, the House, by a stand of 262 to 170, passed the Appalachian Regional Development Act. A 47-vote switch would have killed this multi-billion dollar extravaganza of unconstitutional spending of our tax money.

MINIMUM WAGE. In May, 1966, the House, by a vote of 232 to 167, extended coverage of compulsory federal minimum wage laws to include farmers — a harsh blow to what is left of the freedom and independence of owners and operators of small farms in the United States. Subtract from the liberal majority the votes of the 47 liberal Democrats defeated in 1966, and add their 47 votes to the conservative opposition. Result: Defeat of this measure by a margin of 29 votes.

TEACHERS CORPS. On October 20, 1965, the House, by a stand of 239 to 165, rejected an effort to delete Johnson's Teachers Corps scheme from the Higher Education Act. A 47-vote switch would have eliminated the Teachers Corps.

POVERTY WAR. On July 22, 1965, the House, by a stand of 255 to 168, passed HR 8283, amending and extending the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964 (Johnson's poverty war bill) and authorizing $1.9 billion for fiscal 1966. A 47-vote switch would have defeated the measure.

None of this is meant to imply that all 47 House seats lost by liberal Democrats in 1966 will be occupied by good conservatives. They will not be; but, at least, the men in them will not belong to that controlled group of political opportunists and sycophants whom Johnson lumped together in the phrase, *my Congress*. They will be susceptible to the influence of constitutional conservatives, if they hear from enough of you, often enough.

More than that, many old-timers in Congress, who have made careers by veering with changing political winds, are no doubt astute enough to detect the peoples' vast unrest and discontent with policies of the federal government. Many of them supported Great Society programs in 1965-66, because they thought that was the politically expedient thing to do. Now they can be taught that it is politically expedient to support constitutional government, and repair some of the damage that Johnson's 89th Congress did.

It is up to you — who read such publications as this and know what constitutional government means — to do the teaching.

As recently as six weeks ago, hard-working conservatives, on the point of quitting, were saying gloomily that the Johnson steamroller could not be stopped — that our Republic would not last long enough for constitutionalists to establish even a beachhead in Congress. Now they are saying, "We have our beachhead; let's go!"

The time to start doubling and redoubling our educational efforts is now. The effort it took to establish a beachhead must be multiplied manyfold in the next two years. God willing, it will be done. The 1966 elections gave us a breath of hope. The 1968 elections can give us the restoration of our constitutional Republic.

CHRISTMAS GIFTS: If you have not already sent us your list of persons to receive this *Report*, and our books and records as Christmas gifts, we urge you to do so now.


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